

December 8, 2004

To: All EMS Agencies
From: Michael D. Berg, Manager, Regulation and Compliance
Subject: Medication Kit Storage
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This letter is to inform licensed EMS agencies of their requirement(s) in the storage and security of medication kits.

1. All medications/medication kits (Shock Trauma/Enhanced/Cardiac/Intermediate/Paramedic kits) must be stored in a fully enclosed, locked compartment when not in use. This includes IV fluids and supplies (needles, syringes, catheters, administration sets, etc) and medications not supplied by a pharmacy in a sealed medication kit.
2. The locked compartment is defined as:
 - Ground Ambulance – Interior locked compartment with no exterior access. Exterior access to this compartment must be through a separate locked door in addition to the exterior door of the ambulance body.
 - Nontransport Response Vehicle –
 - i. Rescue Vehicle/Fire Engine – Approved locking device attached within the passenger compartment or an exterior compartment, inaccessible by the public.
 - ii. Sedan/Zone Vehicle – Approved locking device attached within the passenger compartment or trunk, inaccessible by the public.
 - iii. Utility Vehicle/Van – Approved locking device attached within the vehicle interior, inaccessible by the public.
 - Approved locking devices shall be of a design that prevents removal and opening of the medication kit. Devices that secure the medication kit by its handle(s) are not acceptable.
3. The Virginia Board of Pharmacy regulations do not permit individual EMS personnel to possess or carry a personal medication kit or medications for use on patients.
4. In all circumstances, medication kits and medications, including IV fluids, should be stored in a manner that insures protection from temperature, light, motion and moisture extremes.